terrorism including its efforts to target and train misguided youths for engineering violence. Government is keeping a close and continuous watch on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed.

Government have taken various steps which include sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and co-ordinated actions by concerned Central/ State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of nakas (check posts) as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movements of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

Police and intelligence organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI modules and activities in all parts of the country whenever and wherever these come to notice.

Demographic change in Siliguri

1577. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Time of India dated 15th February, 1999 under the caption "Significant demographic changes in Siliguri alarm Government agencies"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to deal with the problems mentioned therein, both at political and administrative level?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both the State Government of West Bengal and the Central Government are conscious of the developments in northern areas of West Bengal. Besides taking steps to curb the problem of infiltration from Bangladesh, the security situation in the region has also been reviewed. Intelligence agencies have been alerted. Coordination mechanism with neighbouring States have been set up so that negative elements cannot escape from one State to another. Regular review of the situation is being done and the situtation is closely monitored.

Foreign funds for VHP

1578. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the interview given by the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to the Eendu Television wherein he observed that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad may be getting more foreign funds than the Christians;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether such unilateral expression of opinion on highly sensitive matters is in public interest; and

(d) whether Government would direct the Chairman of NCM to clarify the sources on which his remark was based; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Chairman, National Commission for Minorities has denied having made any such statement.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Creation of new Force

1579. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "New Force Soon", apppearing in the Hindustan Times dated 28th December, 1998;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether such a Force would be deployed in each State according to their length, width and population; if so, the number of personnel to be recruited; and

(d) what is the annual expenditure anticipated, the share of the Centre and by when it would come into existence?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The on going scheme of India Reserve Battalions was mentioned which was

apparently misunderstood as the "New Force". The news item therefore, does not reflect the correct position.

Marxist Communist Centre and other Militant outfits in the country

1580. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports regarding preparation of their budget by the banned Marxist Communist Centre operatig in Bihar, elaborating their extortion agenda, training programme and drive for procuring and accumulating weapons;

(b) the details of other such militant outfits so brazenly opperating in the country; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent their militant and criminal activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Some reports relating to the Maoist Communist Centre in this regard have come to notice.

(b) The particulars of major Left-Wing extremist organisations opperating in various parts of the country are given below:

Sl. No.	Name	Area of operation
1.	CPML People's War Group	Parts of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu
2.	CPML-Vinod Mishra	Parts of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Uttar Pradesh.
3.	Communist Organisation of India (Marxist-Leninist)	Parts of West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajashthan.
4.	Central Organising Committee-CPML	Parts of Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh
5.	Maoist Communist Centre	Parts of Bihar and West Bengal
6.	CPML-Santosh Rana (Bhaiji)	Parts of Bihar and West Bengal
7.	CPML-CP-Reddy-PB	Andhra Pradesh
8.	CPML-CPR-KR	Parts of Bihar and West Bengal
9.	CPML-Santosh Rana	Parts of Assam. Tripura, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi
10.	CRG-CPML	Parts of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects according to the Constitution of India, it is essentially for the State Governments to take such measures as are necessary to curb the activities of militant outfits in their respective territories. The Central Government, on its part, has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by way of providing Central Para-Military Forces, financial assistance and sharing of intelligence, etc.

Measures for empowerment of SCs/STs

1581. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided upon a package of measures for empowerment of SCs and STs and setting up of a 11-member Commission to review various programmes and policies for tribal development, under article 339(1) of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.